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Bush Restores CIA

Before he officially takes leave of his office, come Inauguration Day, George Bush as director of the Central Intelligence Agency deserves a word of thanks from the American people, Congress and an incoming President.

Badly battered by a combination of due criticism and undue mud-splashing, the CIA was damaged publicly and privately. Bush buttressed the sagging morale of the vital service and restored Congressional and public confidence to a measurable degree. The structure of an essential intelligence system is "as sound as it has ever been," according to knowledgeable analysts.

Carefully and prudently, Bush has worked with the President and Congress, performing as a professional trusted by most. Cordial relations with the Senate's select committee chaired

by Daniel Inouye of Hawaii are firm. Disruptive and catastrophic alterations of the CIA, suggested by Senator Frank Church with the best of intentions, are fortunately pigeon-holed.

In this very real world, hard intelligence is required by our free people, to retain our liberty. It would be well for President-elect Carter, and all, to remember an event of November 27, 1776. On that day the Congress "ordered that the Secret Committee take proper and effectual measures to procure a quantity of Hard money, not less than \$20,000, to be lodged in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief, for the purpose of secret services."

Secret services in peace and war are vital; and George Bush has served this country well in his cleansing and ordering of the CIA.